

Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development in Maryland
July 28, 2008 / 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
The Maryland Department of Planning
Baltimore, Maryland

Meeting Summary

Attendance

Members: Jon Laria (Chair), Derek Berlage, Karl Brendle, Rudolph Cane, Virginia Clagett, Sandy Coyman, Jan Gardner, Carol Gilbert, Teena Green, Janet Greenip, Richard Hall, Frank Hertsch, David Jenkins, Brigid Kenney, Gerrit Knaap, Caitlin Rayman

Attendees: Jennifer Bevan-Dangel (1000 Friends), Peter Bouxsein (office of Del. McIntosh), Jamie Bridges (BMC), Rudolph Cane (Delegate), Peter Conrad (Balto. City), Candace Donoho (MML), Wynnee Hawk (Balto. Co.), Lisa Jackson (Gov's office), Katie Maloney (Bldrs Assoc.), John Papagni (DHCD), Jacquelyn Rose (MD APA), Kurt Sommer (DHCD), Amy Stanley (URS), Helga Weschke (DBED)

MDP Staff: John Coleman, Amanda Conn, David Costello, Larry Fogelson, Pat Goucher, Stephanie Martins, Marco Merrick, Matt Power, Nery Morales, Pat Russell, Eric Schmitt, Shelley Wasserman

Welcome/Administrative Matters

Listening Sessions Briefing

The Chair, Jon Laria, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Ms. Helga Weschke of the Department of Business and Economic Development. DBED is not officially represented on the Task Force, but Mr. Laria noted the importance of DBED's mission to our work and said that he and staff would work to integrate DBED and solicit its input.

Marco Merrick, MDP Director of Communications, distributed a hand-out on the Smart Growth Listening Sessions. Dates for all six sessions are now confirmed, with start times of 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Merrick asked members for their assistance in encouraging attendance. A print ad format will be prepared with all pertinent information. Members should contact MDP with any questions or concerns. Mr. Merrick said he would like the listening sessions to be an informal opportunity to hear from citizens about their concerns.

John Coleman added that several moderators have been confirmed and others are being identified. These are expected to be local community leaders conversant in land use issues.

Mr. Laria asked everyone to attend as many sessions as possible and noted his intention to attend all six, is possible.

Mr. Laria reminded members to review the links and/or pdfs sent to the task force via email. These are also posted on the task force's website.

Mr. Jenkins called attention to one of these reports, from the Northwest Institute, entitled *Smart Growth Frontier*. Mr. Jenkins said the report should be looked at as a resource particularly for rural issues and small town development.

"Eight Visions" Workgroup

Mr. Laria announced that, based on discussion at the prior meeting, he is forming a workgroup to review the "Eight Visions" from the 1992 Growth Act. Mr. Laria noted that this group may or may not recommend amendments to the statute, but that there was clear consensus that the Visions should be reviewed and updated. The Task Force will consider the workgroups recommendations. Mr. Laria appointed the following workgroup members, who responded to his request for interest: Joe Tassone, Carol Gilbert, Marty Ewing, Caitlin Rayman, Brigid Kenney, Karl Brendle, Candace Donoho, Jan McLaughlin, Elizabeth Hughes, and Gerrit Knaap. Mr. Knaap will lead the workgroup.

Draft Recommendations

Members previously received a copy of the recommendation matrix begun at the Last meeting and had been asked to come prepared with comments and further recommendations.

Ms. Rayman suggested combining the recommendations into one matrix and adding a column identifying one or more categories for each recommendation -- infrastructure, environment, etc.

At Mr. Laria's request, Mr. Knaap gave a short recap of a presentation the NCSG recently made at a national conference and include some of his recommendations from this perspective. His power point presentation was entitled "*Accessing the Land Use Policies of Eight States: Population and Employment Growth Patterns,*" July 10, 2008. It is posted on the website and had copies are available upon request.

Mr. Laria suggested that recommendations from Mr. Knaap's presentation should be integrated into the recommendation charts.

Mr. Brendle distributed a briefing paper for Northwest Coalition and Climate Change. He noted the importance of the State's BRAC enhancement zones, and suggesting that incentives should be pursued for brownfields and greyfields areas.

The following new recommendations were made by members of the Task Force:

- Both housing and economic development elements should be incorporated in the comprehensive plans. There was substantial debate about the importance of including a housing element, with some members believing it is already effectively incorporated and others arguing for an explicit incorporation. Mr. Hall suggested that, if incorporated, a housing element might include, at minimum, a development capacity analysis, affordability analysis, and jobs/housing balance assessment.
- Consider creating a new hierarchy in lieu of existing PFAs, including a “priority growth” area, a “stabilization” area, and a “preservation” area, in which growth would be discouraged.
- Put a time limit on PFAs so they need to be re-evaluated and reassessed and consider changes to the threshold requirements.
- Focus on incentives and barriers with respect to brownfields and greyfields development.
- Focus on development around Metro stations. Focus in walkability – a vehicle free environment – and encourage walking, bicycling.
- Consider reviewing formula for state gas tax
- Encourage mixed use pedestrian friendly communities to reduce vehicle dependence.
- Assess opportunities for enhanced technology’s effect on growth and development, including impact of telecommuting.
- Sufficiency of water is a critical issue in certain parts of the state.

(These recommendations will be incorporated into the matrices to be re-circulated to the Task Force for further review).

Mr. Laria said these recommendations would be summarized and reflected back to the Task Force for further review, refinement and prioritization. He said he expected that a subset of recommendations would be put on upcoming agendas for more detailed and focused review by the Task Force.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.